THE PUNISHER®

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

EDMONDSON
MAURER
CARNERO
PALLOT
FABELA

007

FRANK CASTLE was once a decorated Marine officer, an upstanding citizen and family man. Then his family was violently taken from him when they were accidentally killed in a mob hit. From that day on, Frank Castle shed his old identity and became a force of cold, calculated retribution and vigilantism known as

THE PUNISHER

PREVIOUSLY

A trail of drugs, corruption and terror perpetrated by the DOS SOLES gang led Frank Castle to Los Angeles. After a bloody and brutal fight, Frank stopped the Dos Soles from releasing a dangerous chemical weapon in L.A., but before he could question Guillermo Del Sol, the gang leader was killed by a mysterious drone.

The new HOWLING COMMANDOS were given a kill order against Frank. When they infiltrated his secret base of operations, Frank managed to escape atop a bus, but not before taking a bullet to the chest.

EL DIABLITO
part one

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SOUTHERN MEXICO.

THE LAST FEW DAYS ARE A BLUR.

CHANGED BUSES IN TIJUANA AND OUTSIDE MEXICO CITY. STAYED AWAY FROM THE LUXURY LINES.

TRIED TO BLEND IN. I NEEDED TO GET LOST. DISTANCE WAS MY ONLY SECURITY...

BARELY MADE IT OUT OF L.A.

THOSE SOLDIERS, WHOEVER THEY WERE, GOT ME PRETTY GOOD...

I TRIED TO FOCUS ON MY ENVIRONMENT...

CHICKEN, BEER, LAUGHTER.

ANYTHING BUT THE PAIN...

I WAS BLEEDING OUT. I NEEDED TO FIND HELP...

...EVEN IF IT MEANT EXPOSING MYSELF.

THE MEN AT THE CANTINA KNEW WHERE TO SEND THE WOUNDED GRINGO...

...I COULD FEEL HIM CLOSING THE WOUND. PAIN KEPT ME FROM PASSING OUT EVEN AFTER HE NEARLY DRUGGED ME INTO A COMA...

BUT HE STOPPED THE BLEEDING. I'D LIVE FOR NOW.

<CAPTAIN CRUZ. HE IS HERE.>

I'M A PRIZE, BEING BOUGHT AND SOLD...

<QUICKLY, BEFORE HE REGAINS HIS STRENGTH.>

...AT LEAST I KNEW I WAS WORTH MORE ALIVE.

SHE'S UP ALL NIGHT FOR GOOD FUN. I'M UP ALL NIGHT TO GET LUCKY

THE PAIN I COULD HANDLE. THE SINGING... I NEEDED MORE DRUGS.

CAN I KEEP HIS STUFF WHEN HE IS DEAD?

SOMEONE AGREED TO THEIR PRICE. THEY WERE SENDING ME TO THE BUYER.

GUANACASTE, COSTA RICA - NICARAGUA BORDER.

...I BET *EL DIABLITO* STRINGS HIM UP LIKE A PINATA...

...LIKE HE DID TO THE *OTHER* AMERICAN.

DON'T CALL HIM "EL DIABLITO." *MR. ORTIZ* CATCHES YOU USING HIS NICKNAME AND *YOU* MIGHT GET STRUNG UP, TOO.

THE LAST GUY THAT USED IT LOST HIS TONGUE. MR. ORTIZ CARVED IT OUT AND THEN LEFT HIS INITIALS IN THE GUY'S CHEST SO HE WOULDN'T FORGET HIS BOSS'S NAME.

GENTLEMEN, TONIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENT HAS ARRIVED. I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT HIS AVAILABILITY, AND FOR ONLY A FEW THOUSAND DOLLARS!

IT ISN'T EVERY DAY YOU GET A VISIT FROM HIM AND LIVE TO TELL ABOUT IT.

BIENVENIDO A MÉXICO, *CASTIGADOR!*

EAGLE MAIN, DAGGER TWO ONE. WE HAVE A UNIDENTIFIED TRUCK ENTERING THE TARGET COMPOUND.

ROGER, DAGGER TWO ONE. WE SEE IT. THEY COULD BE MOVING "HIM."

NEGATIVE, EAGLE. LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVE ANOTHER HOSTAGE. ANY FRIENDLIES IN THE AREA?

NEGATIVE, DAGGER TWO ONE. YOU'RE IT.

I TOLD YOU HE WAS JUST A MAN, GENTLEMEN. THERE IS NOTHING *SUPER* ABOUT HIM.

HE MAY HAVE BESTED THE AVENGERS ONCE, BUT HE COULDN'T--

...UGH!

YOU TRY TO FIGHT *US?* YOU'RE NOTHING NOW!

THAT'S ENOUGH.

"TAKE HIM TO THE WAREHOUSE."

WE'RE RECORDING, BOSS.

GOOD. I WANT TO MAKE SURE MY FRIENDS AND ENEMIES SEE THAT I CAUGHT THE PUNISHER.

MR. CASTLE... FOR A MAN WITH YOUR REPUTATION, IT SURPRISES ME THAT YOU WERE SO EASILY CAUGHT.

THERE ARE A LOT OF FOLKS LOOKING FOR YOU AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO ***DOS SOLES***. BUT THEN YOU JUST WANDERED IN OFF THE STREET...

MAYBE I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.

WELL, WELL. LET ME CONGRATULATE YOU.

YOU FOUND ME.

NNNH.

THWACK

WHEN WORD GOT OUT THAT I HAD YOU, I GOT A LOT OF OFFERS. I SETTLED ON SOMEONE YOU KNOW WELL. HE PAID A LOT TO COME GET YOU. SO YOU WON'T DIE HERE, UNFORTUNATELY.

BUT YOU WILL SUFFER...

CRACK

IT IS A GOOD THING YOU FOUND ONE OF OUR BETTER DOCTORS. HE DID A GOOD JOB PUTTING YOU BACK TOGETHER.

HIS BEDSIDE MANNER LEFT SOMETHINGTO BE DESIRED.

I TEACH MY MEN TO HIT SPOTS WITH SOME MEAT. BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE THE SAME THRILL AS THE SNAP OF BONE.

NNK! I KNOW THE TECHNIQUE.

ARRRRRRR!!!

AH, SO YOU *DO* FEEL PAIN.

I APPLAUD YOUR TOUGHNESS. WHEN THIS VIDEO GETS OUT MY COMPETITORS WILL RESPECT YOU FOR IT. BUT THEY'LL RESPECT AND *FEAR* ME MORE.

BUT NOW, I'M GOING TO LET MY MEN HAVE SOME FUN WITH YOU.

WHEN YOU'RE DONE, THROW HIM IN WITH THE OTHER AMERICAN...

"... AND TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE MAN THAT MAKES HIM SCREAM AGAIN."

YOU CAN'T PLAY TOUGH FOR MUCH LONGER. YOU HEARD THE BOSS. SCREAM FOR ME...

DAMN. HE'S OUT.

I'LL WAKE HIM UP...

...I NEED TO GET THAT *SCREEEEEE!*

AHHH! HE JUST *BIT OFF MY THUMB!*

THERE'S YOUR SCREAM.

ANY MORE REQUESTS?

KEEP HIM CUFFED. I DON'T WANT HIM TO DO WHAT HE DID TO TONO.

EASY, MAN, YOU'RE GOING TO BE OK. I'M A MEDIC. WHERE DOES IT HURT?

EVERYWHERE.

RIBS AREN'T BROKEN. THAT'S GOOD. NOT MUCH I CAN DO FOR THE SWELLING...

SUTURES ARE STILL INTACT. FOR AS BAD AS YOU LOOK, YOUR INJURIES AREN'T TOO SEVERE.

WHO ARE YOU?

SPECIAL FORCES ASSIGNED TO 7TH GROUP. I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD ANOTHER TEAM IN THE AREA. YOU PART OF THE CSAR* EFFORT?

*COMBAT SEARCH AND RESCUE.

NO TEAM. NO MISSION. THEY GOT ME BY ACCIDENT. GET MY BOOT BEFORE THEY COME BACK.

RIP THE INSOLE.

A LOCK PICK. I NEED TO GET A PAIR OF THESE BOOTS.

HELP ME GET THESE CUFFS OFF.

...MR. RUMLOW, THE PACKAGE IS HERE AND READY FOR PICKUP.

A PRIVATE ISLAND NEAR COSTA RICA.

GOOD. THE MONEY WILL BE IN YOUR ACCOUNT SHORTLY, SENOR ORTIZ.

IF YOU LIKE, I CAN ALSO OFFER YOU AN AMERICAN SOLDIER FOR A LITTLE BIT MORE. ONE SURVIVOR OF A TEAM I FOUND.

I AM SURE THE AMERICANS WILL PAY WELL FOR HIS RETURN, BUT I LACK THE MEANS TO SELL HIM WITHOUT ATTRACTING ATTENTION TO...OTHER ASPECTS OF MY BUSINESS.

MR. ORTIZ, MY JOB IS TO PICK UP THE PACKAGE. I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN THE PUNISHER. CHECK YOUR ACCOUNT. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THE TRANSFER ON OUR END.

YES, WE HAVE CONFIRMATION, TOO. CAN WE EXPECT YOU TODAY?

WE'RE EN ROUTE.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?

A DAY, I THINK. MAYBE TWO. NOT SURE. THEY BEAT THE HELL OUT OF ME, TOO. NOT SURE IF THE OTHER GUYS MADE IT. WE GOT AMBUSHED AND I BLACKED OUT.

WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST. HOW MANY GUARDS?

ORTIZ ONLY HAS A DOZEN GUARDS HERE AT A TIME. THEY USUALLY HANG IN A ROOM NEAR THE FRONT OF THE WAREHOUSE. MOST OF THE GUARDS ARE WORKING OUTSIDE THE VILLA NOW.

IF YOU'RE NOT PART OF SOME RESCUE, WHO ARE YOU?

JUST A FORMER MARINE.

HEY TONO, HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK EL DIABLITO WILL PAY FOR YOUR SCREAMS?

SHUT UP. GO SEE IF THAT BASTARD IS AWAKE. BRING HIM BACK. I'M NOT DONE WITH HIM.

I THINK HE'S DONE WITH YOU, JEFE.

AY, DIOS MIO!

BASTARD!

DON'T KILL THE PUNISHER, YOU IDIOT!

SKRACK

THAT'S MY GEAR.

GRAB AMMO. WE'LL NEED IT.

WAIT. WHY DOES HE HAVE A PUNISHER COSTUME...?

BOOM BOOM

GO TELL THOSE IDIOTS TO STOP SHOOTING THEIR GUNS! RUMLOW WILL THINK WE'RE SOME KIND OF AMATEURS.

I HAD NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WE CAN DISCUSS THAT LATER. I SAW A TRUCK OUTSIDE. THAT'S OUR ESCAPE.

THIS MIGHT COME IN HANDY. WE HAD A REAPER DRONE PROVIDING ISR* FOR US. IF HE'S STILL UP THERE, HE COULD COVER OUR ESCAPE.

GOOD. TIME TO MOVE.

* INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE. USUALLY PROVIDED BY A PREDATOR OR REAPER.

ANY STATION, THIS IS SPIDER THREE THREE.

SPIDER THREE THREE, DAGGER TWO ONE. HOW COPY?

I NEED TO GET OUTSIDE TO COORDINATE CAS*.

WE'VE GOT COMPANY. GET TO THE TRUCK. I'LL HANDLE THEM.

*CLOSE AIR SUPPORT.

MR. RUMLOW IS HERE. GO GET THE PUNISHER.

COPY DAGGER. READ YOU LIMA CHARLIE. WE ARE TROOPS IN CONTACT.*

* LIMA CHARLIE = LOUD AND CLEAR. TROOPS IN CONTACT = COMING UNDER FIRE.

REQUEST EMERGENCY CAS. CLEARANCE ON MY AUTHORITY. CALL WHEN READY.

SPIDER THREE THREE, DAGGER IS READY.

ARE YOU EXPECTING A WAR? YOU'RE SAFE HERE.

JUST CAUTIOUS. CASTLE IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

"HE'S DANGEROUS, BUT RIGHT NOW...

"...HE'S JUST A CHAINED UP DOG."

DAGGER TWO ONE, SPIDER THREE THREE, YOU ARE CLEARED HOT.

I'LL FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE WHEN *WE* HAVE HIM.

HE SHOULD BE COMING ANY MINUTE.

WEAPONS AWAY. THIRTY SECONDS...

GO SEE WHAT IS TAKING SO LONG.

FIFTEEN SECONDS...

GO! GO!

SPLRT

DAGGER TWO ONE, SPIDER THREE THREE, FRIENDLIES ARE IN THE PICKUP TRUCK.

ROGER, SPIDER THREE THREE. WE SEE YOU.

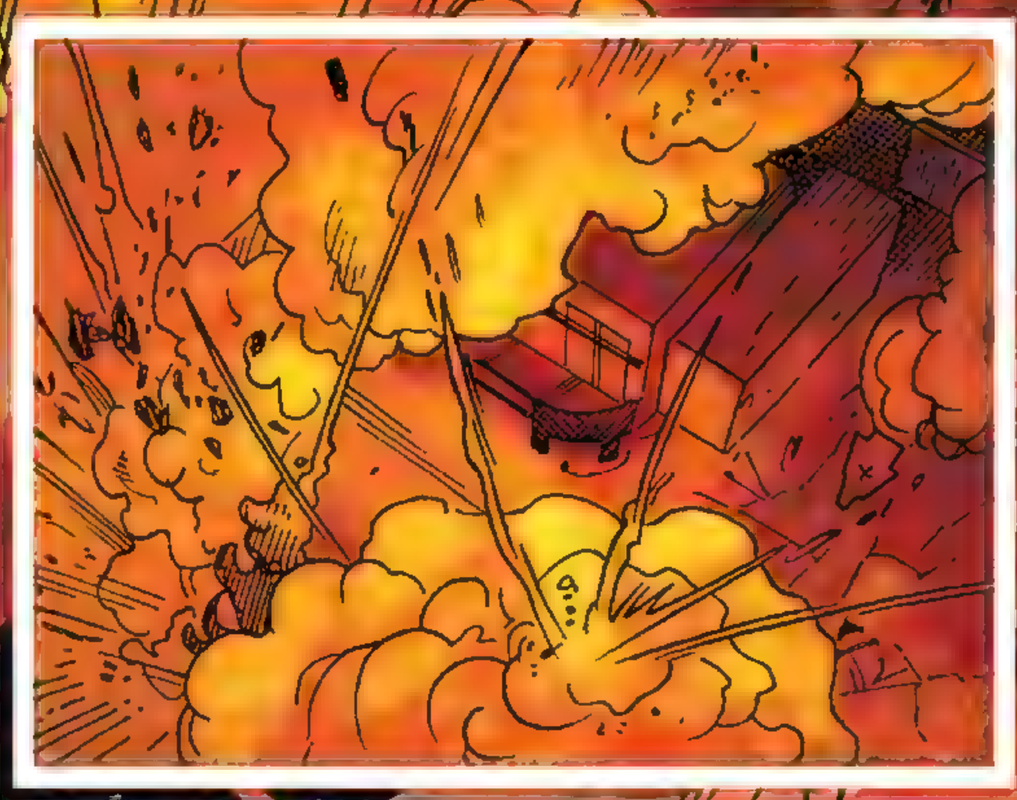
I THINK YOUR DOG IS OFF THE CHAIN, ORTIZ.

SEVEN, SIX, FIVE...

KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN. HELLFIRE INBOUND.

...FOUR, THREE, TWO...

COVER!



DAGGER TWO ONE, SPIDER THREE THREE, YOU'RE CLEARED FOR IMMEDIATE RE-ATTACK.

ROGER, STAND BY.

GET TO THE GATE BEFORE HE CLOSES IT!

I'LL KEEP THEIR HEADS DOWN.

AIM FOR THE ENGINE, BOYS.

ANOTHER HELLFIRE IN TEN SEC--

--ARGH!

DON'T TAKE YOUR FOOT OFF THE GAS!

YOU OKAY? WE'VE GOT TO MOVE.

I'M FINE. JUST GRAZED ME.

THIS IS SHOT. COME ON. I KNOW WHERE WE CAN GET SOME GEAR. WE GOT ROLLED UP NOT FAR FROM HERE.

WHO THE HELL WAS THAT GUY? HE ONE OF THOSE MUTANTS? BECAUSE HE THREW A KNIFE *THROUGH THE ENGINE BLOCK.*

CROSSBONES. HE ALMOST KILLED CAPTAIN AMERICA A COUPLE OF TIMES. HE WAS COMING FOR ME.

I GUESS BEING THE PUNISHER YOU HAVE ALL KINDS OF FUN FRIENDS.

THEY NEVER SEEM IN SHORT SUPPLY, NO.

SO HOW DID YOU END UP HERE?

WAIT...

COME ON. I FOUND 'EM.

I THINK GREG'S ALIVE!

MEDIC... MEDIC.

YEAH, MAN, IT'S TOM. I GOT YOU.

CAN YOU MOVE HIM?

LET ME STOP THE BLEEDING FIRST.

YOU BETTER CHECK IF HE'S GOT ANY AMMO.

MR. ORTIZ, PRAY THAT WE FIND CASTLE, BECAUSE WE IF WE DON'T, I'LL TAKE IT OUT ON *YOU* INSTEAD. THE PEOPLE I'M WORKING FOR WANT THE MAN WHO MEDDLED WITH THEIR PLANS.

I WONDER HOW LONG THAT DRONE HAS BEEN WATCHING YOU. NOW TELL ME, WHY DOES S.H.I.E.L.D. CARE ENOUGH TO SEND A TEAM OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS TO WATCH A TWO-BIT CARTEL LEADER?

MAYBE I'M *MORE* THAN A TWO-BIT CARTEL LEADER.

STAND BY.

BRAKA BRAKA BRAKA

THEY'RE HERE! THEY-- HRK!

I'M NOT SURE WE CAN HOLD 'EM.

WE CAN'T. BUT LEAVE ME THE GRENADES.

AND GET YOUR GUY OUT OF HERE. I'LL FINISH THIS.